

Remarks

Independent claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended to specify that a link aggregation router is provided. Support is found at page 5 lines 19-21 of the present application.

The independent claims are also amended to specify that in failure-free operation, both the working transmission path and the shared protection path carry traffic simultaneously without duplication of the traffic on the two routes. Support is found at page 4 line 27 to page 5 line 6.

In paragraph 2 of the office action the Examiner rejects claims 1-6 as being anticipated by Fishman (US 6,046,832). It is respectfully submitted that the claims as now amended are novel and not obvious in view of Fishman for the following reasons.

Fishman is not concerned with link aggregation and does not teach using a node with a link aggregation router in a shared protection path scheme. One of the benefits of link aggregation is that bandwidth availability is increased because in failure-free situations traffic is sent along the working path and the shared protection path simultaneously (see page 5 line 1 of the present application). Fishman does not describe sending traffic simultaneously along the working path and shared protection path in the manner claimed.

Fishman deals with different issues from those of the present invention. It is concerned with the SONET and WDM layers. In contrast the present invention is concerned with the router layer 3 and WDM layers. Because of this the skilled person would not have considered Fishman.

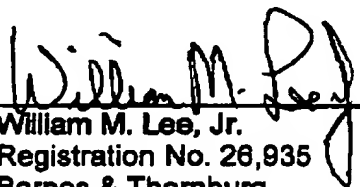
Shanklin is concerned with multiple intrusion detection sensors as part of a network firewall. It is irrelevant to the present application and the skilled person would not have considered it.

Detailed arguments with respect to the dependent claims have not been presented. However, the Examiner's arguments concerning these are not accepted.

Given the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited.

April 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)